

# PURE FABRIC BILL WILL AID TO IMPROVEMENT OF SHEEP INDUSTRY

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF TRUTH IN FABRICS MEASURES SET FORTH BY WILLIAM A. BURNS, WELL KNOWN SPECIALIST ON SHEEP HUSBANDRY WHO VISITS MALHEUR COUNTY FRIENDS

William A. Burns of Alexander, Conover & Martin, Commission men of Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis, who is the author of and authoritative text book on sheep husbandry, was in Ontario Monday with Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Oxman of Jamieson, with whom he has been visiting for several days. Mr. Burns is an old friend of Mr. Oxman and is making a business trip through the west. Discussing conditions as they affect the sheep industry Mr. Burns declared to the Argus that the most important thing that can happen to the sheep industry is the passage of

the "Truth in Fabrics" bill which is now before Congress, the arguments for which are set forth in the following article from his pen: "Truth in Fabric Bill vs. Exploited Industry Must Succeed," because Bill starts with Right Word," said Mr. Burns. Mankind has always fought against every step of its own progress. This seems strange since none of us think we do it, so we speak of this peculiar abnormality, lest some of us lose patience with those who do not at once agree with

us. We, who are watching the evils come to the surface, that have ruined our sheep industry so many times, are apt to become a little alarmed but we should not worry unnecessarily for this is a progressive age. We should rather rejoice that the scum is coming to the surface for it can now be skimmed off.

"This is certainly a poor time for corruption to raise its head and hope to avoid the kind of snippers that are behind the "Truth in Fabric" bill. There is not a person in the United States who would not be benefited if the bill should become a law, for there are none who are not being robbed in some manner by the wrongs being perpetrated against the sheep industry. The producer has been hard hit but no harder than the consumer. The fact of the case is that if there is any difference the consumer has been robbed even more than the producer, for it is he that has to pay good prices for poor merchandise.

**Deception Hard to Measure**  
It is reasonably easy to measure truth. We can tell pretty close how much wool will be shorn from our available sheep this spring, but when we try to measure deception, which is just one lie after another, we think like Rastus, that it is a tough job "to unscrew the unscrutable, or unknow the unknowable". Who can tell how much shoddy is being used? One had just about as well try to measure mesmerism; and because we cannot measure it, we do not know whether wool is too high at 35 cents a pound or if it might not be cheap at 75 cents a pound.

At one time the good producer of sheep and lambs was sacrificed on the market to the cause of poor production. That is, the price of the best sheep and lambs was held down, and the choice lots were made to sell the poor grades. But this evil has ceased to a large extent and sheep and lambs now sell on the hoof on their own merits, and this is stimulating better production. We are, and have been receiving very poor prices for wool, so that fabulous profits can be made on junk.

**Better Clothing; Cheaper Meat**  
The "Truth in Fabric" bill will insure better as well as cheaper meat. It makes considerable difference in the cost of a 60 pound lamb whether or not the pelt taken from this animal is worth five dollars, as many of them sold for dur-

ing the war, or whether they are worth less than one dollar, as many of them sold for during the past year. For example, an eighty pound lamb on the hoof that costs 15 cents per pound, stands the packer \$12.00. It requires prime lambs to dress fifty per cent so that leaves forty pounds of dressed lamb, costing 30 cents per pound. Last year's credits on sheep pelts figured about one dollar per pelt, leaving the 40 pounds of lamb costing eleven dollars or 27 1/2 cents per pound. Sheep pelts generally carry about seven pounds of wool and ought to be worth at least three dollars and a half apiece, or 50 cents per pound for the wool. Figuring the pelt at three dollars and a half, which is very conservative, leaves the 40 pounds of lamb costing 21 1-4 cents per pound. Should lambs be selling at 8 cents per pound or the cheaper lambs sell for on the hoof, the greater will a reasonable pelt credit cheapen the meat. For instance, an 80 pound lamb at 8 cents per pound is six dollars and forty cents, and with the wool at 50 cents per pound, gives us our three and a half dollar lamb pelt credit, leaving 40 pounds of lamb costing two dollars and ninety cents. There is in an average man's suit of pure wool clothes only from four to six pounds of wool, which does not figure greatly to the cost of the suit of clothes even at one dollar a pound, so it is very plain that the consumer is benefiting even more than the producer by wool selling at a reasonable price. We did not have enough sheep at the close of 1920 but wool became almost worthless, as well as sheep, with the result that the producer shipped his breeding stock to market, for as he said, since wool was worthless it did not pay to keep sheep. Therefore, we are now up against a real shortage in breeding sheep and a short crop of lambs is in sight for this year, and again the consumer will have to settle. Wool is the regulator of the sheep industry and wool was almost worthless last year so sheep men could not get a dollars worth of credit and scores of them went broke. In many instances ranchmen shipped their sheep to market and did not receive enough from their sale to pay the freight. This last is not a mythical statement, and proof can be given if desired. The sheep industry, or what is left of it, has received such a mortal wound from its last fleecing that it will take several years for it to recover. Just as long as good wool is used to sell junk at fabulous prices the sheep industry will remain a dangerous field for investment.

**Industry Must be Protected**  
We do not ask the farmer any more if he would like to invest in some sheep. Instead we ask him how sheep look to him as a gamble this year. We tried in vain to interest some capital in feeding lambs on the range last fall at five cents per pound with choice alfalfa hay to feed them selling at four dollars per ton. The men who had to sell their produce at those prices nearly all went broke. However, since wool began to move early last winter sheep worked higher also and many of the lambs that were bought last fall as low as five cents per pound, and fed out and made fat for the market, are now selling around sixteen dollars per hundred on the Chicago market. Our much afflicted friends, the consumer, we notice is also paying the fiddler for the present high priced performance.

There are very few livestock loaning agencies that will extend credit to a sheep man. There is no legitimate reason for this; sheep are freer from disease than any other animal unless it is the goat. Government inspection of sheep carcasses at the market is rigid and they state that diseased sheep carcasses are almost all. There is no animal that produces so much useful material as the sheep. Sheep will build up a run down farm quicker and make a good farm better than any other animal. Why should such a valuable animal to a farm and such a large producer be such a dangerous thing for sane investors? Exploitation can be the only answer. When mutton is sold over the counter as mutton and not as lamb, as most of it is sold today, and when wool is sold and guaranteed in the cloth to be virgin wool, the industry will remain stable and safe for investors. It takes just about the same amount of courage to ask the average butcher for mutton as it does to ask the average clothier for a suit of shoddy.

We complain that our good wool should sell at ruinous prices and that goods made from it should prove unsatisfactorily. We refuse further to support the shoddy clothes industry, which is ruining us, and we ask the consumer to join us in demanding a speedy remedy. **Clothiers Dealers Want Bill**  
"There are many honest clothiers

today that have thrown the old policy of "Let the buyer beware" out of the back door and are now guaranteeing their goods to the consumer. They are doing it because the public demands it and because it pays them to do it. This policy is being adopted by all the better clothiers and they will welcome the "Truth in Fabric" bill as well as will the honest manufacturer.

"Shoddy goods have never proven satisfactory and it seems that the fact is no new discovery. Jesus, who was always right, spoke of it in Matthew 9:16 1/2 "No man putteth a piece of new cloth into an old garment, for that which was put into to fill it taketh from the garment and the rent is made worse." We do not wish, however to discuss the merits of shoddy goods; all we want is that they be sold for what they are. Some people said at one time, and a few do yet, that butterine is pure and better than cow's butter. "Well", said the dairyman, "then sell it as butterine and we will let the people be the judges". We say the same regarding shoddy goods. Butterine is selling well and there is no doubt but what it has met a great need because it can be sold cheaper than cow's butter. Shoddy goods will surely be needed to fill a certain demand but it is not needed to fool the people and ruin the sheep industry.

"The producer is ready to produce better wool so we will not be compelled to import all of our best wools. He wants to deliver to the manufacturer good wool but he wants the manufacturers to make a stable class of merchandise so the consumer will be better satisfied with it and will want more of it.

"We believe the "Truth in Fabric" bill will benefit the manufacturer also, but we believe it represents the difference between a business one can invest capital in with safety and one like we have at present, that is very unsafe.

"We hope the consumer will join us and demand his just right, but that is no question about us sheep men; we want our wool sold as virgin wool. We are tired of paying tribute to pirates. In the good old days pirates called themselves

pirates. Tyrants were elected in the days of the Roman Empire to trim the people and they made a good job of it, but they did it openly. It would seem that if it is possible to defeat this much needed bill that there are tyrants in office today, serving under different names.

## VALLEY VIEW

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Walters, who have rented the old Jones place, spent Sunday visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Armstrong, and after a short call at the Burr ranch returned home.

Mrs. Jesse Brown was quite sick last Wednesday with another attack of appendicitis, but was better Thursday.

Mrs. Snyder, who has been visiting relatives in Idaho for nearly two months, returned home last week.

Frank Henry and family spent Sunday of last week visiting at the E. Caldwell home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Brown motored to Nyssa Sunday and spent the day with Tom Johnson and family.

Misses Lois Halstead and Ida Johnson were guests at the Guy Kenney home Sunday.

Mrs. H. McMurrin is very sick at her home at Weiser, with pneumonia resulting from a relapse of the flu. Mr. McMurrin has rented a house in Ontario, and expected to move the family this week, but will be compelled to wait indefinitely.

Sunday school was the only service at the school house Sunday. Rev. Blom will preach next Sunday afternoon.

The eighth grade has lost most of its members, only three of seven remaining. They are very busy under Miss Halstead's coaching, preparing for the May examination.

The meeting of voters of District 20 called Monday, May 1, at 8:00 P. M. for the purpose of deciding what disposition to make of the old school house and the grounds, was poorly attended. It was voted to sell to the highest bidder which sale will be decided on at the next regular meeting of the directors.

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## O. H. S. GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIP BASKET BALL TEAM



The Ontario High School girls' basket ball team had a most enviable record during the winter of 1921-22. Despite a late start and many difficulties the girls completed the season with the highest per centage of victories of any of the girls' teams of this section and is clearly entitled to the designation of champions of this section for this year.

The members of the regular team were: Irene Faubion, center; Florence Hale, and Ella Mense forwards; Lucile Blanton, running center; Elizabeth Whitmore and Mildred Davis guards. The following were substitutes but all appeared in many of the contests: Eva Everett, forward; Myrna Secoy, running center, and Gertrude Monce, guard.

## THE ONTARIO MEAT & GROCERY COMPANY

In the future will be conducted under the firm name of Reihsen & Ryan.

We will adhere to the cash and carry plan, which means RIGHT PRICES. Quick turnover and cash buying means a fresh grocery stock on the shelves.

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